

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims pending in the above-identified application are Claims 11-45 and 49-53. Claims 1-10 and 46-48 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 11-45 are amended. Claims 49-59 are new. The amended and new claims add no new matter to the above-identified application.

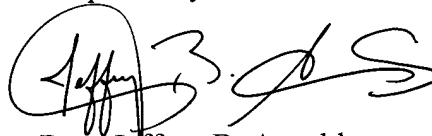
In the Written Description

The written description is amended to indicate that the above-identified application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/639,836, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/174,044, filed December 30, 1999. This amendment inserts no new matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above preliminary amendment. Applicants further request that the Examiner call the undersigned counsel if allowance of the claims can be facilitated by Examiner's Amendment, telephone interview, or otherwise.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffery B. Arnold", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

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